

image

\$ 2837

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Shoichi Toyoda ) Re: Information Disclosure  
Serial No.: 10/057,186 ) Statement  
Filed: January 23, 2002 ) Group: 2837  
For: "BUTTERFLY DAMPER" ) Examiner: Lockett, Kimberly  
Date: December 23, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicant's duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the next Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

It should be noted that the above-identified application may be related by subject matter to the following U.S. Application(s): 10/057,187, filed January 23, 2002. In addition, the present application has claims that may be considered to be similar to the claims in the applications listed above. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a) and M.P.E.P. 2004, paragraph 9, the applicant brings these co-pending applications to the attention of the Examiner. The Examiner should consider this information during the prosecution of the above-identified application. However, citation of these applications does not constitute an admission that the claims of the present application are substantially similar or similar to those of the applications listed above.

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are those cited in an Official Action for a related Chinese application no. 02106517.9 (4 pages). A copy of the Official Action is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall

01/06/2004 HLE333 00000058 10057186 180.00 OP  
01 FC:1806

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December 23, 2003  
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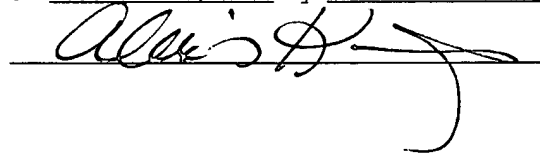
not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

This IDS is being submitted after receiving an Office Action on the merits, but before receiving a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, and is accompanied by a check for \$180, which is the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Thus, this IDS should be fully considered on the merits, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

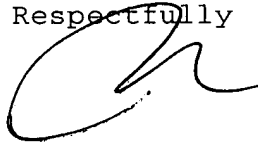
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450",  
on December 23, 2003 by Alexis Karriker.



Respectfully submitted,



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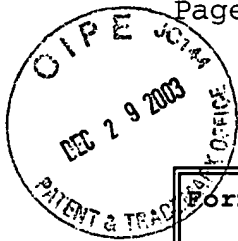
Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)  
Copy of Official Action for CN 02106517.9 (4 pages)  
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)  
Check for \$180.00

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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	ATTY DOCKET NO. B-4465 619462-9	U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/057,186
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANT(S) Shoichi Toyoda	
	FILING DATE January 23, 2002	GROUP 2837

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,790,682	8/1998	Hachiya, et al.	381	197	
	10/057,187		Toyoda			1/23/2002

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.